

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

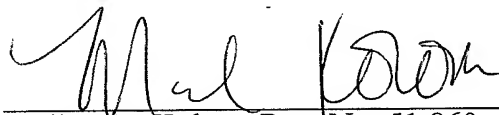
Claims 38-50 currently are pending, and are directed to a method for increasing or decreasing the ion conductivity of a membrane, which method comprises inserting one or more directly light-controlled ion channels into a membrane.

The Office has rejected claims 1-5, 9, 19-26, and 32-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly lacking written description and enablement. In addition, the Office has indicated that, if claim 9 is found allowable, then claim 37 will be objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. Solely in an effort to advance prosecution of the application, and not in acquiescence of the rejection, these claims have been cancelled. Therefore, the rejections under Section 112, first paragraph, and the provisional objection of claim 37 are rendered moot by these amendments and should be withdrawn.

The Office has indicated that claim 38 is allowable. New claims 39-50 correspond to previous claims 19-26 and 32-35 but are dependent on allowable claim 38. Thus, claims 39-50 also should be allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent.

Respectfully submitted,



Melissa E. Kolom, Reg. No. 51,860
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6731
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

Date: March 4, 2010